

**WHAT IS CLAIMED**

1. A stereophonic expansion circuit having (L + R) and (L-R) signal paths, comprising;

means for processing (L + R) and (L-R) stereo signals, and

means for tonal compensation of the (L + R) signal.

2. The stereophonic expansion circuit of claim 1 wherein the tonal compensation of the (L + R) signal is in the bass and/or treble frequency bands.

3. The stereophonic expansion circuit of claim 1 wherein the (L + R) signal is tonally compensated to reduce the mid-range frequency signals.

4. The stereophonic expansion circuit of claim 2 wherein the (L + R) signal is tonally compensated to be complementary to a frequency curve of the (L-R) signal.

5. The stereophonic expansion circuit of claim 1 wherein the tonal compensation can be switched between "ON" and "OFF" modes.

6. The stereophonic expansion circuit of claim 5 wherein the tonal compensation is switched "OFF" when stereo expansion is switched "OFF".

7. The stereophonic expansion circuit of claim 1 wherein a switchable gain boost is provided in an (L-R) signal path.

8. The stereophonic expansion circuit of claim 7 wherein the gain boost is switched "OFF" when tonal compensation is switched "OFF".

9. The stereophonic expansion circuit of claim 1 wherein the tonal compensation of the (L + R) signal is with respect to the (L-R) signal.

10. A stereophonic expansion circuit having an (L + R) and (L-R) signal paths wherein the tonal compensation of the (L + R) signal path is approximately complementary to the tonal frequency response of the (L-R) signal path.

11. The stereophonic expansion circuit of claim 10 wherein tonal compensation is switchable between "ON" and "OFF" modes.

12. The stereophonic expansion circuit of claim 11 wherein the complementary tonal compensation is switched "OFF" when the stereo expansion is switched "OFF".

13. The stereophonic expansion circuit of claim 12 wherein a switched gain boost is provided in an (L-R) signal path.

14. The stereophonic expansion circuit of claim 13 wherein the gain boost is switched "OFF" when the tonal compensation is switched "OFF".

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